



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: October 28, 2008

Release Number: CA 11490- 01

Contact: Richard Jenkins

Phone: (916) 735-1500

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to California Residents and Businesses Affected by the Marek and Sesnon Wildfires in Los Angeles County

SACRAMENTO – Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that low-interest disaster loans are now available to residents and business owners affected by the Marek Wildfire that occurred in the Kagel Canyon area and the Sesnon Wildfire that occurred in Porter Ranch in Los Angeles County beginning October 12, 2008.

By declaring a disaster, Acting Administrator Baruah's action makes SBA assistance available. Baruah's action responded to an October 21 request from Henry R. Renteria, Director of California's Office of Emergency Services, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The declaration covers the California counties of **Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura.**

"We look forward to working with California and the people affected by the wildfires and making SBA disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses," said Acting Administrator Baruah.

"Historically in fire disasters, SBA has found that most property owners have insurance coverage. However, SBA often finds that for many property owners their insurance does not cover the full loss. SBA's disaster loans are available to cover the gap between the cost of rebuilding and the amount of insurance settlements. It is not necessary to wait for insurance settlements before applying to SBA," said Alberto G. Alvarado, SBA's Los Angeles District Director.

"Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the disaster," said Alvarado. "SBA customer service representatives will be on hand beginning **Tuesday, October 28 at 1 pm** at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," he continued. The center will be located in the following communities and will be open on the days and time indicated:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Marek Fire

Dexter Park Community Center

11053 N. Trail Road

(at Kagel Canyon Rd & Dexter – follow signs)

Kagel Canyon, CA

Opens Wednesday, October 29

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9 am – 6 pm

Wednesday, October 29 – Thursday, November 13

Closes Thursday, November 13

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Sesnon Fire

LA County Dept. of Public Social Services (DPSS)

21415 Plummer Street

(corner of Plummer St. & Canoga Ave.)

Chatsworth, CA

Opens Tuesday, October 28 at 1 pm

Mondays & Tuesdays, 8 am – 5 pm

Tuesday, October 28 – Monday, November 10

Closes Monday, November 10

(more)

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Individuals and business owners unable to visit SBA's Disaster Loan Outreach Centers may contact SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955 or by emailing SBA at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Additionally, disaster victims may now go online to file an SBA application for disaster loan assistance. The Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **December 29, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **July 28, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

###

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841